

Green Drake Emerger

by Greg Chester

By now fishing is going full steam and the cold, snowy winter quietly fades from memory. The early spring Skwala hatch was a wonderful way to break the ice, so to speak, into our 2010 season and, with a mild runoff, we're already seeing some early summer bugs as are the trout. The large bugs this time of year are a pleasure to fish and tie and the size 22, 6x fall season can take its sweet time getting here.

Among these early summer hatches we're fortunate to have a good Green Drake population in the Bitterroot. There's no doubt that imitating the adult, high floating dun is most popular but don't forget the emergent stage. The bugs are very vulnerable during this moment of hesitation prior to full emergence and, no surprise, the trout know this as well. So, here's a pattern that's worked well for me over the years that's simple to tie and effective. I fish it on its own (hard to see) and as a dropper using a dun or other high floating bug as an indicator (easy to see). Give it a try and I'm sure it'll become part of your late spring arsenal. Good tying and good fishing.

Hook: #12 dry fly

Thread: 6/0 Olive

Trailing shuck: Zelon, brown

Ribbing: 3/0 yellow thread

Abdomen: Superfine, light olive

Wing Pad: Black foam, doubled back to form pad



Legs: 3 turns of grizzly hackle dyed bright yellow, trimmed flat on the bottom.